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Disarmament Commission

353rd meeting

Friday, 24 April 2015, 3 p.m.

New York

Chair: Mr. Seck ..... (Senegal)

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Agenda item 6 (*continued*)

Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its seventieth session

The Chair (*spoke in French*): The Commission will continue its consideration of agenda item 6 in order to adopt the reports of the subsidiary bodies under agenda items 4 and 5, as well as the draft report of the Commission, as contained in documents A/CN.10/2015/L.1, A/CN.10/2015/L.2 and A/CN.10/2015/L.3, which have been circulated. Thereafter, the Commission will hear concluding statements by delegations.

To start the process of the consideration and adoption of the reports of the subsidiary bodies on individual agenda items, I will first call on the Chairs of each Working Group to introduce their respective reports.

I now give the floor to the Chair of Working Group I, on agenda item 4, "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons", to introduce the report of his Working Group, as contained in document A/CN.10/2015/L.2.

Mr. Abdrakhmanov (Kazakhstan), Chair of Working Group I: I have the honour to present the report of Working Group I (A/CN.10/2015/L.2), which I hope will be adopted by consensus.

Late yesterday evening, the Secretariat circulated our report, dated 23 April, together with a discussion paper, which I had promised I would produce before the official end of the Disarmament Commission's 2015 substantive session. It should be noted that the revised papers were circulated under my own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. I wanted them to be circulated before the official end of the first year of the Commission's cycle.

The documents circulated are what we will work on during the inter-sessional period through a number of informal meetings. We will also have bilateral and regional meetings and meetings of the Group as a whole. As Chair, I will do my best to reach out to all delegations and to meet them all bilaterally, according to regional groupings, and all together, as Working Group I. We will take stock of all the views expressed and consider how to proceed with the substantive issues. I believe the first informal will be held very shortly after the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

In the Working Group, we held a total of nine meetings, almost fully utilized and with a wealth of input, between 9 and 22 April. The discussions were open, free and frank and, most important, they were inclusive. We covered general and broad issues in order to identify substantive elements. As we know, the first year of the cycle is already over, and as we leave we are resolved to make the process work in order to arrive at a satisfying compromise. It may not be ideal, for every delegation wants to achieve the maximum possible — and perhaps that will never happen, considering that our

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national positions are so different — but it should still be enough for us to come to some agreement, and we will make sure that all contributions will continue to receive full consideration as our dialogue progresses.

This morning, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Chair and members of the Bureau, to the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management for its competent and efficient support at all times, and of course to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for its invaluable guidance and advice to us, the Chair and the Working Group. We are determined to walk together into the future with a constructive approach based solely on great compromise.

As Chair of the Working Group, I would also like to acknowledge the sincere good will the delegations have demonstrated in coming so far. We have all worked with considerable understanding, which is a tribute to all of the representatives, and which gives me hope that we can arrive at some valuable recommendations at the end of the cycle. I am fully committed to facilitating an ongoing dialogue among us as colleagues, all of us coming from different Member States, each with their national interests. As I tried to stress several times while chairing the Group, we do not live in an isolated world and our Commission is not isolated from the many current developments and evolving situations, regionally and globally. As I said, I and all the delegations are determined to walk together into the future with a constructive approach based solely on great compromise.

The Chair (*spoke in French*): There being no comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of Working Group I on agenda item 4, as contained in A/CN.10/2015/L.2.

It was so decided.

The Chair (*spoke in French*): We shall now move on to the report of Working Group II, on agenda item 5, "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons", as contained in document A/CN.10/2015/L.3. I give the floor to the Chair of Working Group II to introduce the report of the Working Group.

Mr. El Oumni (Morocco), Chair of Working Group II: I have the honour to introduce the report of Working Group II. At the outset, I would like to thank the members of the United Nations Disarmament Commission for the trust vested in me to chair the deliberations of that important working group.

Working Group II, which dealt with the subject of practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons, held eight meetings between 13 and 22 April. The Group began its discussion with the prior Chair's paper (A/CN.10/2014/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.3), after which I circulated two papers, a non-paper and the conference room paper. I did my best to ensure that deliberations were inclusive and took into account all the views expressed.

I should particularly like to thank the Chair for his support, his pragmatic approach and his efforts to build consensus among delegations. I should also like to thank the Secretary of the Working Group and her team and the Office for Disarmament Affairs for all their valuable assistance.

Despite the fact that we could not reach consensus, I can only thank delegations for their contributions. I believe we had a very useful and substantive discussion, with active participation on the part of delegations. I am grateful to them and to you, Mr. Chair. I very much hope that the Disarmament Commission will be able to make further progress on the issue of confidence-building measures next year, as there is so much agreement in so many areas.

The Chair (*spoke in French*): There being no comments on the report of Working Group II, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of Working Group II, on agenda item 5, as contained in A/CN.10/2015/L.3.

It was so decided.

The Chair (*spoke in French*): Having adopted all the reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, I would like to thank the Chairs of the two Working Groups for their tireless efforts, talent and dedication. The Commission is deeply indebted to them for their effective leadership in guiding the deliberations on these very complex issues.

We will now begin our consideration of the draft report of the Disarmament Commission, as contained in document A/CN.10/2015/L.1. I have the pleasure of giving the floor to the Rapporteur of the Commission, Ms. Lachezara Stoeva of Bulgaria, to introduce the draft report of the Commission.

Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria), Rapporteur of the Commission: It is my honour to introduce to the Disarmament Commission the draft report of the Commission on its 2015 substantive session, as contained in document A/CN.10/2015/L.1. The draft report consists of four chapters: "Introduction", "Organization and work of the 2015 substantive session", "Documentation", and "Conclusions and recommendations". As is customary, the final report is a factual description of the Commission's work and proceedings during the session. The substantive part comprises the two reports of the Working Groups, which were just adopted by the Commission and which are part of the present report.

This year's session was decisive in setting the agenda for the current cycle. Despite the broad recognition that a different agenda is needed in order to move us forward, it was not possible for us to garner consensus on what it should include, and we settled for the same agenda yet again.

The Commission did not have parallel meetings. Given its deliberative mandate, all submitted oral and written proposals contributed to the objectives of the Groups. I was privileged to closely observe the tireless efforts of the Chairs of the two Working Groups and of the delegations to bridge the gap on the substantive agenda items. I sensed that the deliberations and negotiations helped us to clarify positions, but yet again, consensus was not within reach. Consequently, the Working Groups were not able to provide concrete recommendations.

However, I am hopeful that the remaining two years of the cycle, if utilized properly, will still provide us with the opportunity to achieve that objective. While the agenda may be the same as that of the previous cycle, the approacnes we adopt in addressing the issues can be different. We will just need to find the right ones. I wish to take this opportunity to say that it has been a great honour to serve as the Rapporteur of this session and particularly to work under the able leadership of our Chair, Ambassador Seck of Senegal.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to Ms. Angela Kane, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, for the counsel and support that her Office provided to the Bureau and Member States. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Tegegnework Gettu, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, for the excellent organization and servicing of the Commission's meetings. Last but not least, I would like to thank all the interpreters for making it possible for us to understand each other.

I wish to commend all members of the Secretariat for their tireless efforts and kind assistance. With these brief remarks, I recommend that the Commission adopt the draft report, as contained in document A/CN.10/2015/L.1.

The Chair (*spoke in French*): We shall now consider the draft report of the Commission. The rules of procedure require that we consider the document chapter by chapter.

If there are no comments on paragraph 1, "Introduction", I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt paragraph 1.

Paragraph 1 was adopted.

The Chair (*spoke in French*): If there are no comments on chapter II, entitled "Organization and work of the 2015 substantive session", paragraphs 2 to 12, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt paragraphs 2 to 12.

Paragraphs 2 to 12 were adopted.

The Chair (*spoke in French*): We turn now to chapter III, "Documentation", paragraphs 13 and 14. If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt chapter III, paragraphs 13 and 14.

Paragraphs 13 and 14 were adopted.

The Chair (*spoke in French*): If there are no comments on chapter IV, entitled "Conclusions and Recommendations", paragraphs 15 to 18. I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt paragraphs 15 to 18.

Paragraphs 15 to 18 were adopted.

The Chair: May I take it that it is the wish of the Commission, having adopted all paragraphs of the draft report, to adopt the draft report of the Commission as a whole, as contained in document A/CN.10/2015/L.1?

The draft report was adopted.

Concluding statements

The Chair (*spoke in French*): The Commission will now hear the final statements by delegations.

Mr. Sun Lei (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China congratulates you, Mr. Chair, on the smooth conclusion of this session. We thank you, Sir, and the Chairs of the two Working Groups, the representatives of Kazakhstan and Morocco, for their efforts aimed at achieving progress in the current session of the Commission. We also thank the Secretariat for its support in this session.

China would like to take this opportunity to thank the friend of the Chair, Permanent Representative of Croatia, for his assistance in the work of this session.

China has always maintained that the only multilateral deliberative body in the area of disarmament, the United Nations Disarmament Commission, has an irreplaceable role and status. As this is the first year of the new cycle of the Commission, China welcomes in-depth deliberations in the Commission on nuclear issues, conventional weapons and confidence-building measures, as well as the addition of a third item to our agenda. It welcomes the non-papers and the Conference documents submitted by the Chairs of Working Groups I and II.

China is of the view that, going forward, all parties should use the non-paper and documents submitted by the Chairs of the two Working Groups as the basis for our future work. As long as they do not undermine the security of any country and global strategic balance and stability are maintained, we should pursue our discussions on these issues and fully take into consideration the views and concerns of all parties, thereby consensus for further progress in the Commission's substantive sessions.

With regard to the addition of a third item, China has an open attitude. China believes that the prevention of an arms race in outer space could be an appropriate topic for the Commission. It could energize the Commission and play a positive role in maintaining international security and strategic stability. Agreeing to and constructively participating in discussions on preventing an arms race in outer space is itself an embodiment of a confidence-building measure. China listens carefully to the views of all parties and is willing to continue to communicate with all parties on this third item and its content.

Finally, China will work, together with all parties concerned, to reinforce the Commission and other international multilateral arms control and disarmament mechanisms and contribute to the maintenance of the post-Second World War international security system.

Mr. Boubacar Boureima (Niger) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

The African Group sincerely congratulates you, Sir, on your election as Chair of of the Disarmament Commission at its 2015 substantive session. Our Group takes this opportunity to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election and to express our appreciation to your predecessor, Mr. Vladimir Drobnjak of Croatia, for his commendable efforts as Chair of the 2014 substantive session of the Commission. The Group also thanks the Chair of the two Working Groups, appointed by the Chair of the session, for having facilitated our deliberations on the important items on our agenda. The Group also expresses its appreciation to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Angela Kane, for her statement.

The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/CN.10/PV.348). The Group reaffirms its commitment to the principle and the validity of multilateral diplomacy with regard to disarmament and non-proliferation, and underscores that disarmament and proliferation are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements.

The African Group emphasizes the importance and relevance of the Disarmament Commission as the only specialized deliberative body in the multilateral United Nations framework in charge of disarmament. In this respect, the Disarmament Commission has contributed in the past, to a large degree, to the deliberations on nuclear disarmament as a priority issue and to issues related to nuclear non-proliferation. However, the Group regrets that the Commission was not successful in many cycles in the past owing to lack of political will and rigid positions.

The Group calls for concerted efforts to curtail the threat of weapons nuclear and to ultimately achieve their complete elimination in the framework of the objective of the Treaty of Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). In this respect, our Group reaffirms the implementation of the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability by the nuclear-weapon States in the context of nuclear disarmament measures. This principle is essential to promoting the realization of the obligations under article VI of the NPT and is in accordance with relevant multilateral legal obligations.

The African Group would also like to underscore once again the need to universalize the NPT and to ensure its implementation in a balanced and comprehensive manner, according to its three pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In that connection, the Group reaffirms the inalienable right of States to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with article VI of the Treaty.

A month ago, the world marked the forty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the NPT, and one month from today States parties to the Treaty will hold the ninth Review Conference, five years after the 2010 consensus agreement. It is our hope that the next conference will provide an opportunity to bolster the NPT through a real strengthening of its three pillars of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Africa remains dedicated to advancing the overall objective of the NPT, and it calls upon other States parties, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to fulfil their disarmament obligations and to honour their binding commitments with a view to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The African Group stresses that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is an important measure for the attainment of the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The entry into force on 15 July 2009 of the Treaty of Pelindaba, which established a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, was an important contribution in that regard. The African Group reiterates the fact that the entry into force of the Treaty gives the African continent greater prominence as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and I wish to assure the Commission that our States will continue to respect and honour that status.

The Group takes this opportunity to encourage those States that have not yet ratified the Treaty, particularly those addressed in article III, to take all necessary measures to ratify the Treaty with a view to its prompt implementation. The Group believes that this course of action will strengthen the Treaty significantly and contribute to efforts to replicate this measure in other parts of the world, making it an initiative to free the world of fear and of the risk of nuclear weapon use.

In this spirit, the African Group firmly supports the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. It expresses its profound concern at the fact that the commitments and obligations undertaken in the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the Action Plan on the 2010 NPT Review Conference regarding the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction were not held as agreed.

The Group wishes to express its profound disappointment at the failure to convene in 2012, as planned, a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. In that regard, the commitments and obligations contained in the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, which are an integral part of the range of measures and of the basis on which a consensus had been reached to extend the NPT in 1995, as well as of related measures contained in the Action Plan of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, remain valid until the effective establishment of the envisaged zone.

The African Group welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 69/58, entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament", and calls for its effective implementation, including the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

The Group also emphasizes that any attempt to improve existing nuclear weapons or to develop new types of nuclear weapons would be contrary to the objective of nuclear disarmament as a multilateral legal obligation and to the commitments undertaken by the nuclear-weapon States. The Group considers the total elimination of nuclear weapons to be the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. It reiterates its call for the conclusion of universal, unconditional and legally binding safeguards agreements through which the nuclear-weapon States would provide assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

As we prepare for the nineteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the African Group underscores the importance of attaining universal adherence to the instrument, bearing in mind the particular responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States, and of urging the remaining

States in annex II, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to sign and ratify the CTBT without further delay in order to allow its entry into force. Without a doubt, he achievement of this objective will contribute significantly to the process of nuclear disarmament.

Unlike chemical or biological weapons, nuclear weapons remain the only weapons of mass destruction that have not yet been prohibited. They pose an ongoing and existential threat to humankind, and their use constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of human civilization, and is even a crime against humankind. The Group considers any doctrine that would justify their use or the threat of their use to be unacceptable and unjustifiable.

The Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice also affirms that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons constitutes a crime against humanity, as well as a violation of international law, including international humanitarian law. In that context, the African Group reiterates the need to quickly start negotiations within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) with a view to rapidly concluding a nuclear weapons convention with the goal of eliminating them.

The Group reiterates its deep concern over the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and calls upon all States, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to consider the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of these weapons. In that regard, the Group welcomes the three most recent Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held, respectively, in Norway, Mexico and Australia.

The African Group reaffirms the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating framework on disarmament. The Group also reiterates its urgent call for a global agreement and a balanced work programme for the CD. In that regard, the Group welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Conference in 2014, as noted in its final report to the General Assembly. The Group urges the Conference on Disarmament to work, in the context of its negotiations, towards achieving the objectives for which it was established.

With regard to the issue of confidence-building measures (CBMs) in the field of conventional weapons, the Group would like to emphasize that as part of the effort to achieve international peace and, CBMs should be undertaken in full compliance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The African Group would also like to emphasize that the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons continues to threaten peace and stability in several countries and regions, particularly in Africa. This illicit trade remains a supply source for terrorist groups and feeds transnational organized crime. It is therefore a constant concern for our Group.

The Group welcomes the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, on 24 December 2014, as a legally binding instrument on the transfer of conventional arms between States party to the Treaty. In that regard, the Group recognizes and reaffirms the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and hold conventional arms, weapon parts and components to meet their defence and security needs in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The group reiterates the call for the implementation of the Treaty in a balanced and objective manner in order to protect the interests of all States, not just the major international producers and exporters. Indeed, the full and balanced implementation of the Treaty will be achievable only with the cooperation of everyone. In that regard, the Group urges the major arms suppliers to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible.

The Group also welcomes the successful convening of the fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in 2014 in the wake of the second Review Conference of the Programme of Action. The Group continues to stress the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action. In that regard, the Group stresses that international cooperation and assistance are an essential element for ensuring its full implementation.

The African Group welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa as part of its contributions to the issues of disarmament and its assistance to States members of the African Group for the implementation of actions in favour of disarmament, peace and security. The Group would like to stress the need to strengthen all regional disarmament centres so that they can fully carry out their mandates.

Finally, the Disarmament Commission was not able to formulate concrete consensus recommendations in its previous three cycles. The African Group would

therefore like to reaffirm the crucial importance of political will and transparency in dealing with issues of disarmament and security. The Group calls for a sustained and meaningful dialogue once we begin debate on the major issues and looks forward to the holding of fruitful discussions that will lead to the realization of peace and security for everyone.

Mr. Yermakov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are now concluding the work of a very important forum. We have been successful in discussing very sensitive issues in the areas of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. I would like to convey my gratitude to you, Mr. Chair, for the verve, vigour and energy with which you have infused our work to ensure that it was effective. On behalf of the Russian Federation, I would also like to convey our gratitude to our brave Chairs of the two Working Groups, who made their contribution to discussing the most important issues related to arms control.

Our work has again affirmed the importance of this unique forum, the United Nations Disarmament Commission. At the United Nations — and, indeed, globally speaking — there is no other such forum. It is a platform where all the States of the world can discuss in a free and non-discriminatory way the most important issues in the areas of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, basing themselves first and foremost, naturally, on their national security interests.

We talk about the fact that for many years now the United Nations Disarmament Commission has not been able to make concrete recommendations. That is indeed a major shortcoming, but it is not the fault of our forum. The entire responsibility for it lies elsewhere, with the States themselves, and, essentially, with every State participating in this forum. Let us take a critical look at ourselves and ask which of us has participated in every one of our meetings, and how actively, and it will immediately become clear how effective our forum could be.

The Russian Federation is therefore convinced that the United Nations Disarmament Commission can be truly effective only when all interested Governments participate actively in discussing the real problems of arms control. That is why we should not blame the forum, but rather look critically at our joint activity here. The results we can expect from the work of the Commission are 100 per cent dependent upon us, and of course we should show full support to our Chair, as well as to the Chairs of the two Working Groups and, if it happens, of a third Working Group.

In our discussions of the issues of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, we should never forget what we are doing it for. We are doing it in order to put an end to armed conflict, to ensure an end to the barbaric extermination of peoples that unfortunately continues to take place day after day. When we talk about concrete problems related to disarmament, we should always remember the contribution that this or that discussion can make to solving the truly important problem — putting an end to armed conflict. That is why, while the problems of nuclear disarmament and eliminating weapons of mass destruction are unquestionably important, we must not forget that people are dying in real conflicts that are taking place every day and that in most cases involve no weapons of mass destruction at all, but much simpler weapon systems. That is why there should be no distortions in our discussions, and when we talk about global strategic stability we should comprehend the full meaning of that concept. The Russian Federation is absolutely convinced that strategic stability and predictability are essential to every State in the world, without exception. Only on that basis can we plan future steps to be taken in the area of disarmament and arms control.

In two weeks, the whole world will mark a great day, the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War. The Soviet Union bore the greatest burden of that war and, with China, the greatest loss of human life, numbering in the millions. No one on this planet should ever forget those great human tragedies. In the final analysis, all our discussions of disarmament and arms control should be aimed at ensuring that such tragedies can never happen again.

I would like to congratulate the Commission on the conclusion of its work, on beginning its triennial work cycle and of course on reaching the seventieth anniversary of the Second World War.

The Chair (*spoke in French*): Before I bring this meeting and the session to an end, allow me to express my gratitude to all delegations for their constructive and collaborative spirit and support extended to me and other members of the Bureau, who helped me to ensure the smooth running of the Commission and to whom I am particularly grateful. My thanks also go to the Secretary of the Commission, the Secretaries of

the Working Groups and the staff of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, as well as the Office for Disarmament Affairs. I also thank the interpreters, conference officers, document officers and sound engineers.

For three weeks we have had fruitful debates, exchanges and consultations, even if the two Working Groups have not yet produced consensus documents. For several years now the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime has clearly encountered many obstacles, but we should nonetheless not be discouraged. Progress and change are possible if every delegation really shows the necessary political will.

Concerning the question of incorporating a third item on our agenda into the work of the Commission, in the spirit of resolution 69/77, the Chairs of the two Working Groups have said, and I support them, that consultations will continue within the Bureau with the assistance of the friends of the Chair, bilaterally and in groups. They will work so that, by the seventieth session of the General Assembly and the next session of the First Committee, we will be in a position to propose something concrete. Therefore, I make myself available to the Commission and the Committee to attempt to work during the intersessional period by convening a number of informal meetings to consider the best ways to improve the efficiency of the Commission's work.

Since the beginning of our work, which Ms. Kane inspired, we have made progress. Some of it is not substantive yet, but we have now reached the end of our session. She has provided us with the necessary momentum to continue our consultations and engage in informal consultations during the intersessional period.

I now give the floor to Ms. Angela Kane, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

Ms. Kane (*spoke in French*): I am very happy to be here at the Commission's meeting. Unfortunately, I will not be able to stay, because I must go to the Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear Weapon-Free-Zones and Mongolia, which is ongoing.

I greatly regret that I was not in a position to listen to representatives' statements in the Commission. However, I wish to thank representatives for their work and, above all to thank you, Mr. Chair, for the work you have led and managed thus far. I know it is very intense work and I also know that we are about to launch the next Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Therefore, I thank you.

I know that all of the representatives have participated in many meetings. It was our pleasure to support all of them in their work, as well as all Member States. I am gratified by the fact that I was at least able to be here briefly and I know that, starting next week, we will continue to work hard together.

The Chair (*spoke in French*): As I said, Ms. Kane's presence at the opening and the closing of our session is a source of inspiration for the Commission to redouble its efforts to try to come up with substantive proposals for the General Assembly. Unfortunately, when we began our meeting this moring we had to compete with a meeting (see S/PV.7433) that took place with the participation of Angelina Jolie. However, now that Ms. Kane is with us, we will be able to conclude our work in the firm belief and conviction that, by the seventieth session of the General Assembly, progress will be made in the work of the First Committee.

My predecessor, Ambassador Drobnjak, who chaired the Commission last year and who was so good as to agree to support the meetings of the Commission as a friend of the Chair, is here in the room. Working Group I, chaired by Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov of Kazakhstan, and Working Group II, chaired by representative Bouchaib El Oumni of Morocco, have given us reason to hope that this cycle, which will end in 2017, will enable the Disarmament Commission to increase its credibility and effectiveness.

Closure of the session

The Chair: On this optimistic note, I declare closed the 2015 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.